What is claimed is:

1. A method for making a coated polymeric article comprising the steps of:

(a) co-extruding a selected polyolefin and a maleic anhydride modified polyolefin, thereby producing a polymeric substrate having a modified maleic anhydride surface and a polyolefin surface;

(b) treating the maleic anhydride surface of the polymeric substrate to permit receipt of a polysilicate barrier coating; and

(c) applying a polysilicate barrier coating to the surface treated polymeric substrate.

2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of orienting the polymeric substrate biaxially prior to surface treatment.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the polyolefin is a polypropylene homopolymer or copolymer.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the polysilicate barrier coating is applied directly to a surface of the polymeric substrate.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein said polysilicate barrier coating comprises a lithium polysilicate.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein said polysilicate barrier coating comprises a lithium-potassium copolysilicate.

7. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of providing a top coating over the polysilicate barrier coating.

8. The method according to claim ~~8~~7, wherein the top coating is selected from the group consisting of polymethacrylate, cellulose acetate, and cellulose nitrate.

9. A coated article produced according to the method of claim 1.

10. A coated polymeric article comprising:

(a) a polymeric substrate consisting of a first surface of a coextruded maleic anhydride modified polyolefin layer and a second surface of a selected polyolefin layer; and

(b) a polysilicate coating on the maleic anhydride modified layer.

11. The coated article according to claim 10, wherein said article further comprises a top coat.

12. The coated article according to claim 11, wherein the top coat is selected from the group consisting of polymethacrylate, cellulose acetate, and cellulose nitrate.

13. The article according to claim 10, wherein the substrate is characterized by a thickness ranging from about 20 to about 50 mil.

14. The article according to claim 10, wherein the article is a film.

15. The article according to claim 14, wherein the article is biaxially oriented.

16. The article according to claim 14, wherein the substrate has a thickness between about 0.5 mil to 2 mil prior to coating.

17. The article according to claim 10, wherein the article is a bottle.

18. The article according to claim 10, wherein the selected polyolefin is polypropylene.

19. The article according to claim 10, wherein said polysilicate coating has a thickness ranging from about 200 to about 500 nm.

20. The article according to claim 10, wherein said polysilicate coating comprises a lithium polysilicate.

21. The article according to claim 10, wherein said polysilicate coating comprises a lithium-potassium copolysilicate.

22. The article according to claim 10, wherein the article is selected from the group consisting of bottles, jars, lidlocks and blister packs.